QUATSINO PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 25/03

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Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

105-00367

QUATSINO PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Quatsino Park is to protect diverse natural features including a scenic coastline, small lakes and streams, old growth forest, a sheltered harbour, and part of the Koprino River estuary, which is known for its critical fish-rearing and waterfowl habitat. The marine environment contains kelp canopy and eel grass beds and provides habitat for sea otters, migrant gray whales, seabirds, and marine invertebrates. The park also protects nesting and feeding habitat for a high concentration of bald eagles, and is home to black bears.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect shoreline recreational values. Situated along the popular Quatsino Sound kayak touring route, this wilderness park can be used by visitors as an overnight stopover or as a place to enjoy a scenic lunch or the variety of activities associated with the inland wilderness lake. The park is undeveloped with no trails or camping sites, but boaters can anchor and camp at nearby Spencer Cove, where there is a relatively protected anchorage and a Western Forest Products Recreation Site which has 11 campsites, a boat launch, and a boat dock.

Tertiary Role
The **tertiary** role is to protect the natural environment. Quatsino Park protects an example of an under-represented temperate forest habitat of the Nahwitti Lowland. It is the third largest contributor (3.1%) out of only 6 protected areas that contribute to the overall representation of the Nahwitti Lowland Ecosection, which is under represented in the protected areas system at 7.6%.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of detailed knowledge of natural and cultural values	➢ Implement an inventory of ecological values. ➢ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.
Impact of adjacent forest harvesting and log sort on natural values	➢ Work with forest companies to ensure forest development does not impact park values and decrease forest resilience and cause wind blowdown.
Historical land use – logging road access and old cut block in the park	➢ Rehabilitate sites to a more natural state.
Illegal harvest of shellfish	➢ Work with DFO to ensure shellfish closure is enforced.
First Nation relations	➢ Develop a good working relationship with First Nations to establish an understanding about common issues and concerns.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone -- covers the entire area of the park in recognition of the natural and recreational features (654.2 hectares). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Quatsino Provincial Park is (with 3.1%) out of 6 protected areas that contribute to the representation of the under-represented Nahwitti Lowlands Ecosection, which has only 7.6% of its area protected. Cape Scott Provincial Park is the largest contributor with 87.2%. With only 32 hectares of foreshore, it contributes very minimally (0.04%) to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection, which has only 5.45 of its area protected.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Minimal contribution of 0.43% to the representation of CWHvm1, which is under represented in the protected areas system at 7%.
Special Features	☒	Old growth forest, estuary, bald eagles
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Provincially *red-listed* and nationally *threatened* sea otter. *Yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S4)* bald eagle.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Nearby campsite, kayaking, fishing
travel corridor	☒	Kayak/boating touring route through Quatsino Sound and is a transportation corridor for residential and commercial purposes
local recreation	☐	Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Bald eagle viewing

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown
Special Feature	☒	Archaeological sites and middens

Other Management Considerations

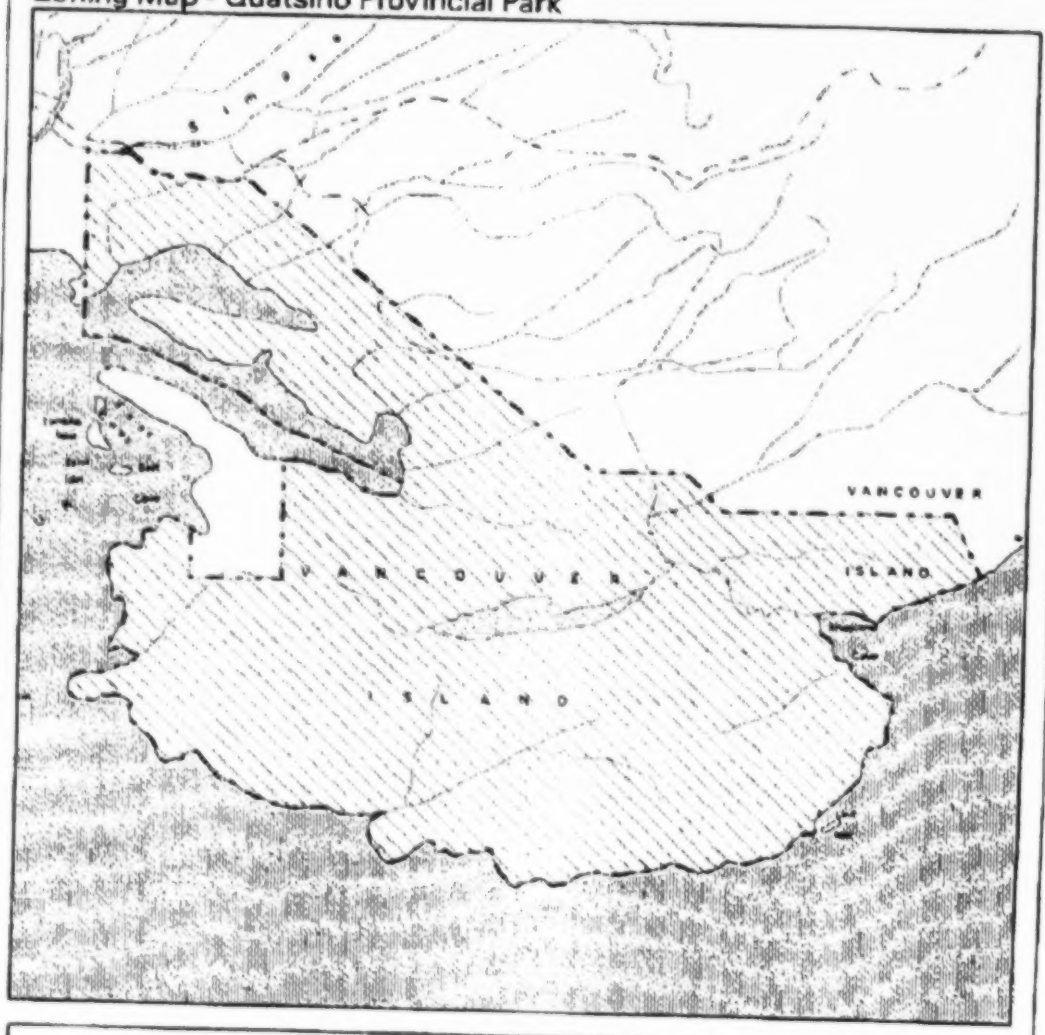
Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable

Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas in the north end of Vancouver Island
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Harvest of bivalve molluscs is prohibited year-round in Koprino Harbour due to high faecal coliform counts (Canadian Sanitary Shellfish Program)
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Natural values are vulnerable to poaching, adjacent forest development and nearby marine industrial activities such as a fish farm and a commercial log boom and sorting area
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Created as a result of recommendations in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan to protect its high ecological, wildlife and recreation values

Area: 654.2 hectares (622.2 ha upland; 32 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: July 12, 1995

Zoning Map - Quatsino Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

Produced in Mar 2003 by Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM, Ortolan Support Services

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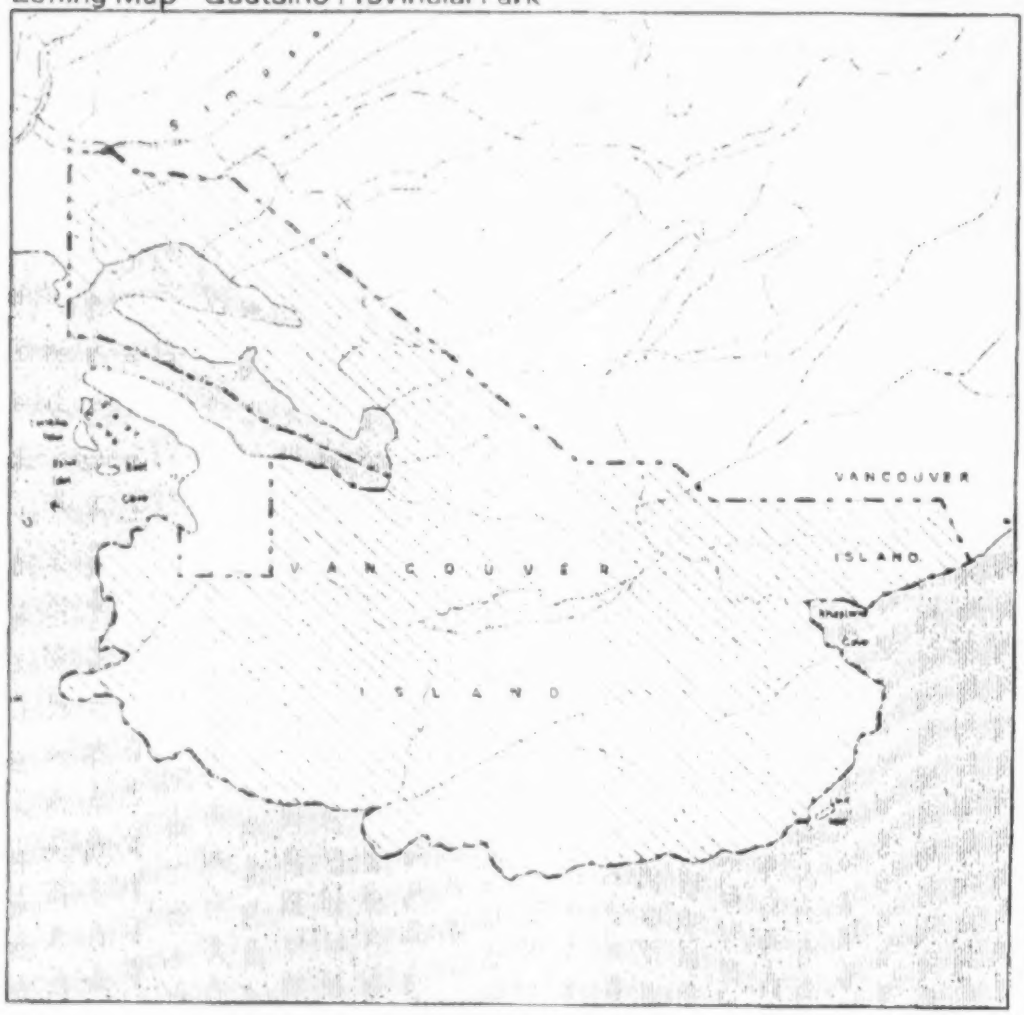
Zoning Map - Quatsino Provincial Park



Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

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